

REMARKS

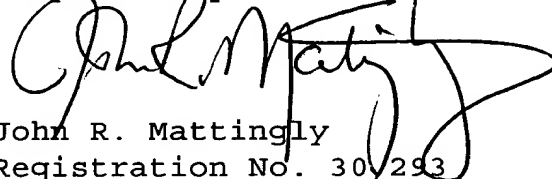
Claims 13-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12, 17, 18, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 12 and 17-28 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sriram et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,315. This rejection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of those claims without admitting to the propriety of the rejection.

Claims 17 and 18 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and are now allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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